

THE
Anti-Slavery Reporter

PUBLISHED UNDER THE SANCTION OF THE

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

Series 4.
Vol. XXIV., No. 5.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 1904.

Gratis to
Subscribers.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
THE TRANSVAAL LABOUR QUESTION: CHINESE LABOUR	139
RECRUITING FOR THE MINES ...	142
MORTALITY ON THE MINES... ..	143
BRITISH CONSULS IN WEST CENTRAL AFRICA: LETTER TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE... ..	143
SLAVE TRADING IN BAROTSELAND	145
BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA: PARLIAMENTARY PAPER	145
NATIVE LABOUR IN RHODESIA	147
THE UGANDA PROTECTORATE: PARLIAMENTARY PAPER	148
THE SLAVE TRADE IN FRENCH WEST AFRICA	151
AFRICAN SLAVE ROUTES	152
NATIVE TAXATION IN FIJI: PARLIAMENTARY PAPER	152
OUR DUTIES TO SUBJECT RACES	154
KANAKA TRAFFIC IN THE NEW HEBRIDES	156
A SLAVE TRADE ANNIVERSARY	157
REVIEWS: LABOUR AND OTHER QUESTIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA	157
WORKING WITH THE HANDS... ..	159

**PUBLISHED AT THE OFFICES OF THE SOCIETY,
55, NEW BROAD STREET, LONDON, E.C.**

WATERLOW AND SONS LIMITED, PRINTERS, LONDON WALL, LONDON.

1904.

The British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society.

PATRON:

HIS MAJESTY THE KING.

President:

1883 SIR THOMAS FOWELL BUXTON, Bart., G.C.M.G.

Vice-President:

Treasurer:

1901 H. W. W. WILBERFORCE, Esq.

Committee:

1898 W. A. ALBRIGHT, Esq.
1876 J. G. ALEXANDER, Esq., LL.B.
1901 B. R. BALFOUR, Esq.
1888 J. BEVAN BRAITHWAITE, Esq.
1894 E. WRIGHT BROOKS, Esq.
1893 CEPHAS BUTLER, Esq.
1889 SYDNEY C. BUXTON, Esq., M.P.
1893 JOEL CADBURY, Esq.
1893 FREDERICK G. CASH, Esq.
1904 J. EDMUND CLARK, Esq.
1884 R. N. CUST, Esq., LL.D.
1883 R. W. FELKIN, Esq., M.D.
1885 MAJOR-GENERAL SIR F. J. GOLDSMID, K.C.S.I.
1886 HENRY GURNEY, Esq.

1887 DANIEL HACK, Esq.
1904 SIR H. H. JOHNSTON, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.
1882 CALEB R. KEMP, Esq.
1895 CAPTAIN H. NEEDHAM KNOX, R.N.
1895 DONALD MACKENZIE, Esq.
1894 W. CAREY MORGAN, Esq.
1893 JOHN MORLAND, Esq.
1901 WM. C. PARKINSON, Esq., L.C.C.
1893 JOSEPH A. PEASE, Esq., M.P.
1903 H. PIKE PEASE, Esq., M.P.
1882 ARNOLD PYE-SMITH, Esq.
1885 FRANCIS RECKITT, Esq.
1885 W. H. WYLDE, Esq., C.M.G. (late of the Foreign Office *Slave-Trade Department*).

Corresponding Members:

RIGHT REV. BISHOP TUCKER, Uganda.
G. T. ABRINES, Esq., Tangier.
FRANK ALLEN, Esq., Alexandria.
THEODORE BURTT, Esq., Pemba.
HON. AND REV. H. CLARKE, Jamaica.
WILLIAM HARVEY, Esq., Leeds.
CAPTAIN E. C. HORE, Tasmania.
G. P. HUNOT, Esq., British Vice-Consul, Saffee.
MONS. HIPPOLYTE LAROCHE, Paris, Ancien Résident Général de France, Madagascar.

M. LE PROFESSEUR G. BONET MAURY, Paris.
A. C. MORASSO, Esq., Gibraltar.
G. MOYNIER, Esq., Geneva.
SENHOR JOAQUIM NABUCO, Brazil.
PROF. EDOUARD NAVILLE, Geneva.
M. JOH. PATER, Teheran.
COMTE DE ST. GEORGE, Geneva.
WILLIAM SUMMERS, Esq., Tangier.
M. LE COMTE D'URSEL, Brussels.
M. COURTOIS DE VIÇOSE, Toulouse.

Secretary:

1898 TRAVERS BUXTON, M.A.

Bankers: Messrs. BARCLAY & Co., Ltd., 54, Lombard Street.

The Anti-Slavery Reporter.

NOVEMBER—DECEMBER, 1904.

[The Editor, whilst grateful to all correspondents who may be kind enough to furnish him with information, desires to state that he is not responsible for the views stated by them, nor for quotations which may be inserted from other journals. The object of the REPORTER is to spread information, and articles are necessarily quoted which may contain views or statements for which their authors can alone be held responsible.]

The Transvaal Labour Question.

CHINESE LABOUR.

THE importation of Chinese coolies into the Transvaal continues, and over 19,000 had been distributed to the Rand mines at the end of November. It is hoped by those interested that not less than 25,000 will be at work before the end of the year, and a total of 51,000 is said to be anticipated by the end of next June.

It is difficult to ascertain from the varying reports which are received of the Chinese labourers on the mines the truth as to the success or otherwise of this experiment. On the one hand we are told that the coolies (whose condition is one of great comfort and their treatment most liberal) have taken readily to their work, at which they are more trustworthy and efficient than the Kaffirs, with whom they work cheerfully side by side. Thus Mr. L. Albu has stated that "the coolies are intelligent, industrious, honest, cheerful and contented," that he has never seen better unskilled workmen, and that they are going to solve the great labour question. We are also told that a substantial period of prosperity is about to set in as a result of Chinese labour, and that "the economic position gives unmistakable signs of becoming sound."

On the other hand we read of riots and serious disturbances which have taken place among the Chinese on several mines on different occasions, and free fights are reported among the coolies themselves and between the coolies and the Kaffirs, which have necessitated the calling in of the police, who, in one case at least, have been compelled to fire on the labourers and "to use a strong exhibition of force," charging with fixed bayonets.

Heavy sentences, varying from one to four months' imprisonment, were passed in October on 72 coolies, who were charged at the Boksburg Police Court with refusal to work and with riot, while four others were sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labour, and 20 lashes each.

On another occasion, when 1,400 Chinamen refused to go to work, the military were summoned to charge them, and the police are reported subsequently to have searched the compound, and carried off three waggon loads of "offensive weapons."

We learn also from letters in the Press of violent assaults made on the coolies in public by their overseers, and of their being horse-whipped to their work. Three of these overseers were found murdered in their bunks on November 22, and the *Central News* stated, that in view of the growing lawlessness of the Chinese miners, the white employees were arming themselves with rifles or revolvers.

It is reported that a large addition has been made to the number of white skilled workers employed on the mines since the Chinese were introduced, the figures given varying from 360 to 1,200, while the Colonial Secretary, speaking on November 9th, said, that no fewer than 1,700 white men had been added to the working population of the mines as a direct consequence of the coolie importation. But this is not likely to be a permanent addition; with the resumption of work on closed-down mines and the opening of new ones in preparation for the arrival of the Chinese, there is naturally more employment, but, as has been pointed out by a correspondent of the *Spectator*, the Chinamen are quick at learning, and they will soon be able to replace skilled workmen in a way that the Kaffirs could not, and will do the work for a far lower wage than the skilled white man can afford to do. One mine already is said to be worked almost entirely by Chinamen, Kaffirs being gradually ousted. Meanwhile, in spite of the reported openings for white men, we read that the Emigration Office at Westminster discourages persons from going out to the Transvaal in hope of finding work. A recent circular of that Office, published under the direction of the Colonial Office, runs as follows:—

“There is no demand for white miners, of whom there are large numbers on the spot without work, or for farm or general labourers. There is no improvement in the demand for labour, and the supply is more than sufficient. Many mechanics, and especially unskilled workmen, are out of employment, and many have left the country. Considerable numbers have been discharged from the railways. There is no demand whatever for the handy-man.”

Relief works for white unemployed have had to be started in the Transvaal, and in other parts of South Africa.

There can be no doubt that very large expenditure has been incurred by the mine-owners in bringing over the Chinese, and we notice that a mining authority, Mr. F. D. P. Chaplin, referred at a recent Company meeting to the unnecessary expenditure which had been forced upon the gold industry, “not because it is required in the interests of the labourers, but in deference to political agitation in England.”

These words are highly significant, and they show the point of view from which the mine-owning party regard the whole question. It is scarcely likely that they will be deterred from exploiting their cheap labour experiment to the full by sentimental regard for the interests of the white workmen who find themselves “not wanted” in the Transvaal.

The New Zealand Parliament has again, by a very large majority, passed a

resolution protesting against the importation of Chinese labour into the Transvaal without the sanction of the white population.

The series of articles written by the special commissioner of the *Daily Chronicle*, who was sent out to South Africa for the express purpose of investigating this question on the spot, and republished in pamphlet form under the title "Yellow Labour; the truth about the Chinese in the Transvaal,"* contains an interesting statement of facts, and a forcible and well-reasoned exposition of the true inwardness of the Chinese policy.

The writer does not oppose the introduction of the Chinese on the ground of their treatment, or the servile character of the contract by which they are bound; indeed, he dwells on the comforts allotted to them, and remarks that "the mine-owners are far too astute to treat the first lot of Chinamen badly." The aim of his articles is to show that the importation is unnecessary, and in the highest degree injurious to the interests of the country as a whole, the policy being one originated and fostered by the tremendously powerful class of mine-owners whose object is at any cost to procure cheap labour in order to pay high dividends. He dwells on the size and value of the Rand goldfields, quotes figures which prove the progressive and continuous increase in their prosperity in spite of the labour difficulties (which are no new thing), and gives reasons for holding that the lowering of white wages has long been contemplated by the mine-owners.

The writer touches on the serious moral question involved in bringing over thousands of Chinese male coolies without a single Chinese woman. The clause of the Ordinance providing for the introduction of women and children has not been, and is said not to be likely to be, taken advantage of.

It is stated that Kaffir women may already be seen walking about in company with the Chinese, and disturbances and violence have arisen between coolies and Kaffirs on this account. This condition of things raises probabilities which ought not to be ignored by those concerned in the welfare of South Africa. The native question is already, as the writer of these articles observes, difficult enough. Is it, he asks, to be complicated by the addition of a new mongrel race, bred up under such conditions?

As regards the often repeated statement that the use of white unskilled labour is economically impossible, the writer says:—

"The contention that white men will not do the work of Kaffirs is disposed of by the fact that they have done it, and are doing it; and the further contention that this sort of labour is not profitable is disposed of by the balance-sheet, and accounts, of such mines as the Village Main Reef and the Geldenhuis Deep, both of which are employing it. Of course, nobody contends that it would be possible, under present conditions, to work the mines entirely with white labour. But, as Mr. Creswell put it to me, by using the present and future supply of black, and by supplementing it with white labour properly used, it would be possible to run 10,000 stamps instead of the 5,000 now running,

* *Daily Chronicle* Office. Price 1d.

"But this is not to be. The magnates have set their hearts on cheap labour, and they have a way of getting what they want in this country. Within six months 100,000 Chinamen will be working in the Transvaal. In the meantime, by twos and threes, by tens and twenties, Englishmen are leaving the Rand, which has no further use for them."

Mr. Schumacher, a well-known director of mining companies, has stated that as more Chinese are employed, there will *naturally* be less opening for unskilled white labourers on the mines, and other authorities on the Rand have frankly stated their reasons for wishing to exclude this latter class—that they would want votes, and would introduce trade unionism.

The *Spectator* has put the case forcibly when it remarks that the plea that British workmen cannot be put to unskilled labour in the mines is the "merest piece of claptrap invented to cover the determination of the capitalists to use Chinese labour." It was not that Englishmen would not do the work, but that Chinamen would do it cheaper. This determination on the part of the mine-owners to get the cheapest labour and make the highest profits possible is natural enough; our complaint should be against the Administration which puts the interests of the capitalists before the true welfare of the Transvaal and the Empire.

The country is, in the opinion of the writer of the articles, a white man's country if ever there was one, and the alternative put before us is whether the Transvaal shall become an ordered commonwealth built up on British principles of liberty, or a land in which a vast crowd of servile labourers is to toil for a small caste of white millionaires, whose object is not to serve the country, but to make money out of it as quickly as possible.

RECRUITING FOR THE MINES.

We notice in the current number of *Central Africa*, the journal of the Universities' Mission, an account by one of their clergy of the recruiting by an agent of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association for the Rand Mines in Portuguese territory, beside Lake Nyasa. This agent comes by special arrangement with the Portuguese authorities at Mozambique, and on the occasion described, the Portuguese Commandant sent a sergeant with the agent with two objects—to collect a hut tax of 4s., and to see that the natives were not coerced into going to the mines.

"Picture," writes the Rev. H. Barnes, "the pair working the Lakeside together—the Portuguese sergeant asking for four silver shillings or the equivalent in work at Mtengula, and side by side with him a smooth-tongued agent of the Rand offering the four shillings on the spot plus a small sum in cloth to console the wife or mother. All perfectly fair and straightforward, and I suppose any man would prefer to have his tax paid for the year even at the cost of exile for an uncertain period rather than stay at home and see the hut burnt as a penalty. So of course some people went from nearly every village, and I did certainly find people who knew the name of their destination, Johannesburg, but the Archdeacon who questioned some of the raw recruits, found them in absolute ignorance of

where they were going and what they were going to do. They supposed they would have to sweep and hoe, but they did not suppose that they would be sent underground. The agent was telling all the villagers positively that they would not be set to work in the mines, and I had the chance of cross-examining Mr. Agent myself on the point, and of hearing him repeat to me that he was quite certain that their work would not be in the mines but on the surface. Pressed for the ground of his confidence, it proved to be nothing more than the fact that the Central African labourers of last year's recruiting had been a failure, and a costly failure, underground. Pressed further to say whether there was anything in the terms of engagement expressly forbidding their employment underground, he was obliged to admit that there was nothing. Pressed further to give me grounds on which to base a happy confidence like his own, and one which I could spread among the natives, who naturally look to us for advice, I was entreated to take it on my informant's personal word of honour. I am still relying on the word of honour of that smooth-tongued stranger, whom I never saw before and am never likely to see again, and it may be supposed that I did not actively assist him in persuading natives that they were not to be called on for any but the familiar tasks of their own villages."

MORTALITY ON THE RAND MINES.

The death-rate among the native labourers on the mines and works in the Transvaal shows a marked and satisfactory decrease. According to the comparative figures which have been sent by Lord Milner to the Colonial Office, the average rate for eight months of this year is under 40 per 1,000 per annum, as against 72 last year. The lowest rate was reached in April last, when the deaths per 1,000 per annum were 31·90, as against 51·84 in April 1903. In May the figures rose to 43·88, against 79·12 in 1903. In June, July and August the rate varied from 36 to 38, as against very much higher figures last year. We are glad to see that Mr. Lyttelton's protests on this subject and the strong public opinion in England have not been without result.

British Consuls in West Central Africa.

LETTER TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE.

The Committee of the Anti-Slavery Society has addressed a letter to Lord Lansdowne urging the need of additional Consular representation of the British Government in South-West and Central Africa, in view of the slave traffic which still goes on in those regions, and for the better protection of the interests of the natives.

The material portion of the letter is as follows:—

"Anti-Slavery Society to the Marquis of Lansdowne."

"I am directed by my Committee to express to your Lordship their strong sense of the need for further British Consular representation in West Africa, which they understand has recently been

"But this is not to be. The magnates have set their hearts on cheap labour, and they have a way of getting what they want in this country. Within six months 100,000 Chinamen will be working in the Transvaal. In the meantime, by twos and threes, by tens and twenties, Englishmen are leaving the Rand, which has no further use for them."

Mr. Schumacher, a well-known director of mining companies, has stated that as more Chinese are employed, there will *naturally* be less opening for unskilled white labourers on the mines, and other authorities on the Rand have frankly stated their reasons for wishing to exclude this latter class—that they would want votes, and would introduce trade unionism.

The *Spectator* has put the case forcibly when it remarks that the plea that British workmen cannot be put to unskilled labour in the mines is the "merest piece of claptrap invented to cover the determination of the capitalists to use Chinese labour." It was not that Englishmen would not do the work, but that Chinamen would do it cheaper. This determination on the part of the mine-owners to get the cheapest labour and make the highest profits possible is natural enough; our complaint should be against the Administration which puts the interests of the capitalists before the true welfare of the Transvaal and the Empire.

The country is, in the opinion of the writer of the articles, a white man's country if ever there was one, and the alternative put before us is whether the Transvaal shall become an ordered commonwealth built up on British principles of liberty, or a land in which a vast crowd of servile labourers is to toil for a small caste of white millionaires, whose object is not to serve the country, but to make money out of it as quickly as possible.

RECRUITING FOR THE MINES.

We notice in the current number of *Central Africa*, the journal of the Universities' Mission, an account by one of their clergy of the recruiting by an agent of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association for the Rand Mines in Portuguese territory, beside Lake Nyasa. This agent comes by special arrangement with the Portuguese authorities at Mozambique, and on the occasion described, the Portuguese Commandant sent a sergeant with the agent with two objects—to collect a hut tax of 4s., and to see that the natives were not coerced into going to the mines.

"Picture," writes the Rev. H. Barnes, "the pair working the Lakeside together—the Portuguese sergeant asking for four silver shillings or the equivalent in work at Mtengula, and side by side with him a smooth-tongued agent of the Rand offering the four shillings on the spot plus a small sum in cloth to console the wife or mother. All perfectly fair and straightforward, and I suppose any man would prefer to have his tax paid for the year even at the cost of exile for an uncertain period rather than stay at home and see the hut burnt as a penalty. So of course some people went from nearly every village, and I did certainly find people who knew the name of their destination, Johannesburg, but the Archdeacon who questioned some of the raw recruits, found them in absolute ignorance of

where they were going and what they were going to do. They supposed they would have to sweep and hoe, but they did not suppose that they would be sent underground. The agent was telling all the villagers positively that they would not be set to work in the mines, and I had the chance of cross-examining Mr. Agent myself on the point, and of hearing him repeat to me that he was quite certain that their work would not be in the mines but on the surface. Pressed for the ground of his confidence, it proved to be nothing more than the fact that the Central African labourers of last year's recruiting had been a failure, and a costly failure, underground. Pressed further to say whether there was anything in the terms of engagement expressly forbidding their employment underground, he was obliged to admit that there was nothing. Pressed further to give me grounds on which to base a happy confidence like his own, and one which I could spread among the natives, who naturally look to us for advice, I was entreated to take it on my informant's personal word of honour. I am still relying on the word of honour of that smooth-tongued stranger, whom I never saw before and am never likely to see again, and it may be supposed that I did not actively assist him in persuading natives that they were not to be called on for any but the familiar tasks of their own villages."

MORTALITY ON THE RAND MINES.

The death-rate among the native labourers on the mines and works in the Transvaal shows a marked and satisfactory decrease. According to the comparative figures which have been sent by Lord Milner to the Colonial Office, the average rate for eight months of this year is under 40 per 1,000 per annum, as against 72 last year. The lowest rate was reached in April last, when the deaths per 1,000 per annum were 31.90, as against 51.84 in April 1903. In May the figures rose to 43.88, against 79.12 in 1903. In June, July and August the rate varied from 36 to 38, as against very much higher figures last year. We are glad to see that Mr. Lyttelton's protests on this subject and the strong public opinion in England have not been without result.

British Consuls in West Central Africa.

LETTER TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE.

The Committee of the Anti-Slavery Society has addressed a letter to Lord Lansdowne urging the need of additional Consular representation of the British Government in South-West and Central Africa, in view of the slave traffic which still goes on in those regions, and for the better protection of the interests of the natives.

The material portion of the letter is as follows:—

"Anti-Slavery Society to the Marquis of Lansdowne."

"I am directed by my Committee to express to your Lordship their strong sense of the need for further British Consular representation in West Africa, which they understand has recently been

urged upon your Lordship by the Aborigines Protection Society. The system of contracted labour in the Islands of San Thomé and Principe, and in the Colony of Angola has been several times referred to in the Reports of British Consular Officers, and the abuses and cruelties which attend the system have been frequently brought to the notice of this Society during the last few years by the reports of missionaries and others resident or travelling in Angola, and formed the subject of strong condemnatory articles in the Portuguese Press itself last year.

"An even greater evil, perhaps, is the trading in natives who are raided in the interior from the regions of the Upper Kasai River and sources of the Zambesi, on the confines of Angola and Barotseland and in the south of the Congo State, and bought as slaves; and of this also the Society has received much evidence from various sources.

"I may, perhaps, be permitted to refer to a report from Colonel Harding, then Acting Administrator in North-Western Rhodesia, which was included in the Reports of the British South Africa Company issued in 1901, in which he describes from his own observation in the north and north-west of the country, and between Nyakatoro and Bihé, the "nefarious traffic" carried on by Bihé traders proceeding to the Mambunda and Mashukulumbwe country for slaves, and the cruelties committed by them upon the natives carried off by the caravans. This report is fully borne out by other travellers in the districts referred to, and there appears to be little doubt that the cruelties and oppression exercised by the traders were the cause of the recent serious native disturbances in Angola.

"In writing to His Majesty's Minister at Lisbon in April, 1903, my Committee made inquiry as to the possibility of a British Resident being appointed on San Thomé to watch over the treatment of native labourers; and my Committee now ventures to submit to your Lordship, in view of the facts alluded to, the inadequacy of British Consular representation in Angola, the Congo State and French Congo, and the desirability of further appointments being made to represent British interests in this vast region, and especially to counteract and oppose the organized traffic in slaves which is there carried on, in the spirit of the General Acts of Berlin and Brussels, and in pursuance of the obligations therein undertaken by Great Britain."

In acknowledging this letter, the Under-Secretary states that the representations of the Committee on the subject will receive Lord Lansdowne's careful consideration.

The Aborigines Protection Society, which forwarded a memorial to Lord Lansdowne in October on the same subject, received an assurance from the Foreign Secretary that the question is not being lost sight of. In that memorial, which went fully into the circumstances, it was pointed out that, with the exception of Acting-Consul Brock at Loanda, the sole representative of British interests in the whole of the French Congo and Portuguese West Africa, as well as in the

Congo State, comprising an area of upwards of two million square miles, was Consul Nightingale.

SLAVE TRADING IN BAROTSELAND.

We referred in our last issue to a report from the Rev. Dugald Campbell of slave trading on the borders of the Congo State and North-West Rhodesia. Major Gibbons, in his book *Africa from South to North through Marotseland*, speaks of slave raiding as having raged in Marotse (or Barotse) land, the vast region which stretches all along the middle and upper Zambezi. Major Quicke, one of Major Gibbon's companions, on his journey towards the West coast, went through a country known as the Hunger Country, which is a wide tract, well watered and healthy, which has been laid waste by slave raiders, and was, at the time of his journey, completely depopulated. A quantity of wooden shackles were still hanging on the trees, and here and there might be found, beside the road, the bleached bones of a skeleton. Major Quicke also saw several armed caravans, making their way into the interior for the purpose of buying slaves.

British Central Africa.

REPORT FOR 1903-4.*

This Report on the trade and general conditions of the British Central Africa Protectorate, which, since April 1st last, has been administered under the Colonial Office, contains some interesting particulars relating to native labour and native affairs generally. The most noticeable feature in the trade of the past year has been the large increase in the cultivation of cotton; the season has been good, the value of the cotton crop exported is expected to amount to over £50,000, and there is every prospect of great expansion in this direction.

Labour is plentiful during eight months of the year, from March to October, but wages are low, and the conditions of service are not good (though the treatment of native labourers has improved), local employers not having seriously taken in hand the proper provision of food, housing, &c. The Commissioner is of opinion that, with a view to the importance of making the Protectorate a cotton-producing country, the Government should have complete control of all labour emigration.

In the general native condition there has been much progress.

"The natives are peaceful and law-abiding; and especially in those parts where there was partial famine during 1903 has their conduct been praiseworthy. In the Lake districts, and particularly in the Western portions of Angoniland, Marimba and West Nyasa, the collectors have made much advance in getting into touch with tribes who formerly were extremely shy and distrustful.

* Cd. 3242.

It is not many years since the appearance of an European in any of the western villages of Central Angoniland caused a general stampede. Now, there is nothing of this kind experienced."

The collector for the Blantyre district tells us that local labour offers itself to such employers as combine the need for it with a reputation for fair treatment, the local natives being ready to work for a man whom they trust, and whose estate is fairly near to their village. Owing to payment in cash instead of in kind the natives work for a longer term than formerly. The desire for education among the natives near Blantyre is such that a certain planter is mentioned who found that it repaid him to build a school, where his employes could receive teaching out of working hours.

The collector for the Marimba district states :—

"The long and successful practice of slavery at Kota Kota rendered its extirpation a task fraught with difficulty. This was largely increased by the lack of co-operation on the part of those whom we endeavoured to aid; and, even yet, domestic slavery lingers. On the whole, however, a feeling of self-assertion has been fostered, and the rising generation finds it difficult to picture what was undergone by their parents."

LABOUR FOR THE TRANSVAAL.

The Commissioner writes as follows regarding this scheme :—

"During the past year, the experiment has been tried of giving permission to a limited number of natives of the Protectorate to proceed to the Transvaal for work in the mines, under very stringent conditions, entered into by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association. It is, as yet, too early to give a definite opinion as to the success of this experiment. The total number of men who left the Protectorate for Johannesburg, under agreements for twelve months, was 936. Most of these men reached Johannesburg at the coldest season of the year, and suffered severely from the epidemic of pneumonia, which was then prevailing among native labourers. So far as can be judged at present, it would appear that natives living in the Shire Valley and in the hotter portions of the Protectorate are unsuited for work in the cold climate of the Upper Transvaal. On the other hand, natives coming from the high-lying Angoniland Plateau appear to have had very fair health in the south.

"In 1904, it was decided to continue the experiment to the extent of allowing the emigration of 5,000 more natives, these to be taken solely from the elevated districts of British Central Africa, and from such portions of the Protectorate as lie at a considerable distance from the Shire Highlands. It was provided also that in despatching any more parties of natives to the south, the date of their arrival in Johannesburg should be so arranged that the coldest season of the year might be avoided."

Mr. J. C. Casson, the Superintendent of Native Affairs, writes a report much the same in effect as that which he gave upon his return from Johannesburg, which he visited in August 1903 to inspect the conditions under which natives from British Central Africa were working at the mines. The work expected from them he found to be harder than is usually done at home, but

was no more than they could do ; the arrangements for housing and feeding were, he considers, "entirely satisfactory, and vastly superior to anything existing in the Protectorate." In spite of the serious epidemic of pneumonia, which caused great sickness among those who had come from the hotter parts of the Protectorate, and gave rise to reports that British Central Africa natives were useless for the Transvaal, Mr. Casson believes that "natives from the high-lying plateaux of the Protectorate will stand the Transvaal climate well, if their arrival there is so timed that the coldest weather has passed before they reach the Rand heights." Their physique is superior to that of the general run of natives coming to work at the mines.

A further party of recruited natives was to arrive in the Transvaal after August 1st.

We notice in the *Daily Chronicle* a report from Johannesburg that difficulties have been placed in the way of recruiting for the mines in Nyasaland. This is on the authority of the Chairman of the Transvaal Chamber of Mines, and we may hope that the experiment has been checked, at any rate for the present.

Native Labour in Rhodesia.

IN the Report of the British South Africa Company for year ending March 31st, 1903, published October, 1904, we find statements as to the lack of native labour, especially for the mines ; thus the Chief Native Commissioner for Mashonaland says that the natives are distinctly adverse to underground work, and prefer road making, railway works, or wood cutting.

"To accustom the natives of this country to steady work is a task which will take years to accomplish, more particularly as they have no desire to become rich. Their one idea is to obtain the necessary money to pay the tax, which can be obtained within two months, and then return to their homes, and loiter about in idleness, drinking beer. Before the desired effect can be obtained, it will be necessary to introduce a higher standard of living at the Kraals, and the natives, while at work, must be educated to higher wants and ambitions, so that when they return to their Kraals, their friends may regard them with envy, inducing rivalry."

The Secretary for Mines in Southern Rhodesia refers to the want of a regular supply of skilled workmen, and states that those interested in mining fully realize that if it "is to be carried out on the extensive scale hoped for, the local supply will have to be supplemented from outside sources." This is evidently a hint that a supply of Chinese coolies will be demanded for Rhodesia as well as for the Rand, and the Chairman of the Company, the Duke of Abercorn, in his speech at the General Meeting, plainly declared that the only solution of the present labour difficulty was the admission to Rhodesia of indentured Asiatic labour under conditions similar to those which obtain in the

Transvaal. The Duke went on to express his confidence that, if the people of the country backed the Company's application, the Government would grant the desired permission.

The reports of the Native Department of Southern Rhodesia are to the same effect. There had been a certain amount of nervousness, hardly amounting to unrest, amongst natives, due to sundry causes, and the exceptionally good harvest foreshadowed a scarcity of labour. It continues, therefore, to be "imperatively necessary" that means should be taken to further supplement the local supply.

It is, unfortunately, improbable that, the step of introducing yellow labour into South Africa having once been taken at the demand of those financially interested in the Rand Mines, the Government will make much difficulty over permitting it for the mines in Rhodesia. The position taken up by Sir Marshal Clarke, the Resident Commissioner, in his Report on the subject, dated December, 1903, was that the general opinion of Europeans in Southern Rhodesia was opposed to the introduction of Asiatics, except as a last resort, and that the agitation for it lacked spontaneity. Sir M. Clarke believed that, in some cases at least, native dissatisfaction was due to the way in which natives were treated by European miners in charge of them.

In consequence of this Report the Secretary of State wrote to the British South Africa Company, in March last, that he was not prepared at that stage to commit himself as to Chinese labour.

But we have little reason to hope that Mr. Lyttelton will for long stand firm against it, as the Chartered Company strongly opposed the recommendation of Sir M. Clarke that the Legislative Council should be dissolved and the electors definitely appealed to on this subject. In a later letter Mr. Lyttelton agreed to the course proposed by the Company, that he should await an expression of opinion from the existing Council (of whom four out of six elected members are actively pro-Chinese), the question of the expediency of an early General Election being deferred.

The Uganda Protectorate.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPER.*

THE general report of the Commissioner, Colonel J. Hayes Sadler, for the year ending March 31st last, gives a favourable account of the progress of the country in civilization and in trade. The Commissioner writes of the year under review as "again one of unbroken peace and quiet," and has "little to notice but continued progress, slow, it may be, but none the less sure." Chiefs and people in the territories directly under administration have, on the whole, more than justified the confidence placed in them, and there has been little or no trouble with the wilder tribes in the unadministered parts of the Protectorate.

* Africa, No. 2 (1904).

GENERAL.

"The general results of the year," says the Commissioner, "may be summed up in increased efficiency of administration, and the maintenance of undisturbed peace and order; in a satisfactory increase of revenue and decrease of expenditure; in a large expansion of trade, particularly in imports; and in a general advance in material and social well-being, despite the fact that progress was hampered by the continuance of the sleeping sickness epidemic. The figures of revenue and trade speak for themselves. Revenue increased from £40,935 in the previous year to £51,474, being in excess of the estimate by £10,539. The expenditure decreased from £203,733 to £186,800, representing a saving on the estimate of £4,679. The hut tax has been easily collected, and has given rise to no trouble whatever; rupees are only demanded from those who can afford to pay in cash, the introduction of the local produce scheme has been of considerable help to the people, and the number of those who have had to pay their taxes in labour has largely decreased; the returns of the hut tax collections in cash are significant of the increased tax-paying capabilities of the people. . . . In social condition the Baganda have continued to make rapid strides, as is evidenced by the building of brick and iron houses by the chiefs, the use of furniture, groceries, and articles in common use in England, and the adoption of European methods of living; and by the commoner people in the change from bark cloth to cotton apparel, the use of petroleum to light their huts, and the increased demand for enamelled ware, boots and shoes, and cheap articles of European manufacture; conditions which are permeating the neighbouring provinces. The natives show every indication of being happy and well contented with our rule; and, indeed, it speaks well for the contentment of the people and the capability of our district staff when we think of the large tracts of country in the Protectorate, some directly under administration, others peopled by wild tribes and not yet under control, and see how free we have been from any trouble or difficulty with the native inhabitants."

WESTERN PROVINCE.

The Sub-Commissioner writes of Ankole, after five years' absence, that he was much struck, in passing through the province, with the change for the better in the people, and the general aspect of the country.

"Chiefs whom he formerly knew almost as savage men, with a piece of goat skin as their only covering, were now dressed in spotless white, many of them were educated, and a few learning English, whilst on all sides there was evidence of great increase in cultivation and in general prosperity."

The principal chiefs of Ankole told the Sub-Commissioner that they were quite content with their present state, and added that they would sooner leave the country, if necessary, than go back to their old life.

NILE PROVINCE.

This northern province has on the whole been quiet, with the exception of a few tribal raids and faction fights, but its development, we are told, must necessarily be slow, owing to the backward state and remote situation of the country, the poverty of the people, and the difficulty of communications. The

Nile valley is occupied with the three stations of Wadelai, Nimule, and Gondokoro, but little control can be exercised over the more remote inland tribes.

NATIVE COURTS.

In the Kingdoms of Uganda, Ankole and Toro, jurisdiction in purely native cases rests with the Lukiko or Native Councils, and is exercised in accordance with native law and custom. In Uganda the Council is reported to have done good work during the year, and its measures and decisions appear to give general satisfaction.

CLIMATE.

"The climate is not," says the Commissioner, "conducive to European colonisation, nor to European manual labour in the open; in the particular conditions of the Protectorate it is not altogether advisable that Europeans should labour in the fields hand to hand with the natives, and we have not, as has our late Eastern province, which now forms part of East Africa, large tracts of almost uninhabited country rejoicing in practically a European climate, and easily accessible to the railway. The development of the Protectorate will be by native agency under European supervision, and with the help of European capital; and it is here that the opportunities for British enterprise come in."

The Commissioner does not think that Uganda will ever be a white man's country in the sense that South Africa is, and parts of East Africa will prove to be.

RELIGION.

After giving statistics relating to the Protestant and Roman Catholic Missions, and educational and medical work done by them, the Commissioner refers to the remarkable position which Uganda occupies in this part of Africa.

"Although the majority of its people are heathen, it may also be regarded as a Christian kingdom, because its native rule is formulated on practically Christian principles, and its King, Regents, and most of its Chiefs and leading persons are Christians by profession. On all four sides it is surrounded by heathen countries, and beyond these again on three sides we come to countries where Mahommedanism prevails. Paganism must eventually yield all along the line either to the Christian religion or to Mahommedanism, and it is in every sense to be desired that it may be the former, and not the latter. To those who fear the possibility of a Mahommedan revival, the importance of Uganda as a strong bulwark in equatorial Africa, gradually spreading Christianity to its surroundings, must be at once apparent."

HEALTH.

The most serious and discouraging feature in this report is the continuance of the sleeping sickness; no improvement can be reported in the epidemic, which continued unabated during the year with a heavy mortality. The infected districts are those around the Lake, which Dr. Moffat, the Principal Medical Officer, predicts will, in a few years, if things go on as at present, be practically depopulated.

"We have now," the Commissioner writes, "been confronted with this appalling epidemic for two-and-a-half years, and the pity of it is that we are still

unable to devise any means to arrest its progress or mitigate its ravages. All who are seized with the fell disease are doomed to die; all we can do is to hope to keep it within what are now fairly defined limits, and to discourage as far as possible communication with the infected areas. The former depends a great deal more on the fly than on us, and the latter is a precaution, and nothing more, which is likely to have but little practical result.

"Unless the laborious researches of the Commission appointed by the Royal Society to investigate the disease result in the discovery of a remedy, I fear there is no course but to let the epidemic run its course and work itself out—practically what is now being done with the plague in India."

The Slave Trade in French West Africa.

In some letters published in the current number of the French Anti-Slavery Society's Journal, describing liberty villages which have been established by that Society in the French Soudan, the missionaries allude to the present position of the slave-trade in that vast district. One missionary, belonging to the White Fathers, writes from the Upper Niger as follows:—

"The people in the district of Segou can no longer, since the French occupation of the country, practise the slave trade strictly so-called; still, as has been stated in a previous report, a custom is in existence which often comes near to slavery. This is the pledging of children by their parents to creditors. When the sum borrowed or the debt is at all heavy, the parents are unable to get free of it, and then the child who has been pledged remains with the creditor as a captive.

"Are there not sometimes cases of real slave trade? The French administration does all it can to prevent them, and yet not very far from here, a case did occur less than a year ago."

The writer goes on to say that since the journey taken by M. Roume, governor of French West Africa, through the Soudan in December 1903 and January 1904, an important step forward has been taken towards putting an end to the taking of captives, and mitigating the practice by facilitating their liberation.

Another missionary, also connected with the White Fathers, writing from Mossi, says that without doubt the trade in human flesh has lost some of its horrors; the trade, except in a few cases, is scarcely ever carried on now by armed forces or in the light of day, but it does go on in disguised forms and succeeds in eluding the vigilance of the soldiers.

Slavery is brought about, too, in other ways. For example, in time of famine, families sell themselves for bread; the conquered become the property of the conqueror; gamblers will gamble away first their belongings and then their own liberty; women and children are surprised and carried off when working in the fields; the captors scatter with their victims in different directions, and if they can succeed in getting beyond French territory, they secure a profitable trade.

Fugitive slaves constantly come to the Mission from which the letter is written, to ask for a refuge, and it is expected that this "village of liberty," being situated on one of the ordinary caravan routes, will soon have a large population of freed people.

African Slave Routes.

We quote the following from an instructive lecture delivered by Lady Lugard at the Royal Colonial Institute on West African Negroland :—

" There are two principal roads across the desert : one through Tripoli and the Fezzan, running due south towards Nigeria and taking the shape of a forked stick to rest upon Lake Chad and the Niger ; the other through Morocco, running again due south towards Timbuctoo and the western end of Negroland. These two points, as a glance at the map will show, are the two narrowest points at which the desert can be crossed, for in both instances the fertile land of the coast strip runs down in important promontories into the arid sands. Both these roads were counted as a fifty days' journey from edge to edge of fertile land. It hardly needs to be said that one was the channel of eastern and the other of western influence upon Negroland. . . . I spoke just now of the continuity of life in these remote places of the earth. The sad continuity of the slave traffic may be illustrated by Major Denham's experience when, as he dozed on horseback, riding in 1823 along the same Tripoli-Fezzan route by which the slaves of Bornu were presumably taken out of the country from the earliest times, he was suddenly awakened by a crashing under his horse's hoofs, and found that the animal had trodden upon the perfect skeletons of two human beings, cracking their brittle bones under his feet, and by an accidental trip had separated one of the skulls, which rolled like a ball before him. The ground was constantly throughout the journey strewn with the skeletons of slaves who had died on the route ; sometimes as many as eighty or a hundred were to be counted in one place. The Arabs who formed Major Denham's escort laughed heartily at his expressions of horror, saying, ' They were only blacks ; ' and amused themselves by knocking the remains about with the butt ends of their firelocks."

Native Taxation in Fiji.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPER.*

LAST year we published some particulars of grievances complained of by the natives of Fiji, ten thousand of whom signed a petition to the King, praying for relief from the oppressive exactions of the chiefs, and the irksome restrictions laid upon them. Mr. Chamberlain stated, in reply to questions

* Cd. 2,204.

then asked in Parliament, that Sir Henry Jackson, the Governor, was conducting an investigation into the whole system, and the present White Paper contains his report and recommendations on the subject.

It is clear from Sir H. Jackson's despatch (which is dated April, 1903), that many abuses have arisen in the administration of the system, and that in not a few respects it has resulted in hardships which give just ground for complaint. The Governor considers, indeed, that the system of native taxation, which has always been the subject of criticism, is one admirably suited to the people, and that the faults have arisen from a too rigid administration and are not inherent in the system. He argues, however, that it should be modified, as the native policy has, in the past, too often been one for governing "through the Chiefs and for the Chiefs," instead of being through the Chiefs for the People.

As to official exactions, Sir H. Jackson admits that, according to the old custom of "lala," all the services which were complained of in the Fijians' petition last year as hardships have been demanded, and nearly all of them may be lawfully called for. They include such services as planting the native officials' gardens, building their houses, supplying them with food, and making roads; but the Governor asserts that, with some exceptions, these are usually rendered readily, and often voluntarily by the people. The custom, however, has led to oppression, of which the Governor gives examples.

Another cause of discontent with communal restrictions, is the large number of Polynesian and Indian immigrants, far outnumbering the Fijians, who are free from taxation.

In order to meet these admitted evils, Sir H. Jackson proposes certain definite reforms. The communal system must be maintained, but it can be re-arranged, and must not be worked exclusively for the benefit of the ruling class; the obligations of the members of the commune must be so settled as to give as much liberty to the individual as is compatible with their due performance, and to provide for the commoner readier redress for his grievances; the policy carried out must be continuous. To these ends the Native Department is to be reorganized, and the Native Commissioners, who are to be readily accessible to the people, are to pay special attention to regulating the communal work to their best advantage. The native taxation is to be re-assessed and reduced, and the harsh administration of the system is to be remedied. Arrangements are to be made to prevent natives having to travel excessive distances, or to leave their own districts for work, except at their own request; the time set aside as "free" must be secured to the native, so as to allow of his working for his own betterment, and the "refund" system is to be optional, and more effective means adopted to secure full repayment to the individual. Certain villages are to be permitted to pay their taxes in coin. Among the general conclusions submitted Sir H. Jackson recommends that the native should be encouraged to better his own condition and assisted to work out his own salvation; the influence of the Chiefs for good is to be supported, but tyranny

and undue exactions will not be allowed, and such old customs as tend to impoverish the commoners and keep them incessantly at work must be discouraged.

"Convince the people," writes the Governor in conclusion, "that a genuine attempt is being made to redress the grievances under which they have been fretting for many years, and we may well hope that a measure of content will return to their villages, and that the land will be at rest."

Mr. Chamberlain accepted the recommendations of Sir H. Jackson, and we may hope that the sympathetic attention which the Governor has given to this native question, and the careful study which he has made of the interests of all classes of the community will bear fruit and lead to a removal of the grievances which have embittered the lot of the natives of Fiji, and the establishment of better relations generally.

Our Duties to Subject Races.

THE following remarks on the obligations of a policy of Colonial expansion are taken from an admirable address delivered by M. le Myre de Vilers, formerly Governor of Madagascar, and a vice-president of the French Anti-Slavery Society, in whose quarterly journal it is reported.

These wise and weighty opinions of a distinguished Frenchman of colonial experience will, we are confident, be read with great interest and deep satisfaction by those on this side of the Channel who are interested in native questions and who are conscious of the special dangers of the times.

"The policy of expansion is one which imposes serious obligations on the dominant race towards those which become subject to it. The natives never solicit European intervention; they accept it only after long resistance, and we ought, in compensation for the loss of their national independence, to treat them with humanity and justice. This has too often been forgotten, and conquest sometimes assumes a character of violence and robbery unworthy of civilised peoples.

"In the West Indies the whites, incapable of working in the tropical climate, sought the servile labour which they needed for their plantations from the West Coast of Africa. Fifteen centuries after the advent of Christianity the slavery which it had suppressed was set up again by its followers. To begin with they were satisfied with carrying off the coast populations; then, as the merchandise became rare, military columns were organized for the sole purpose of making prisoners destined to be sold as slaves. Central Africa, from east to west, was depopulated and turned into a desert.

"Wilberforce in England and Schoelcher in France were instrumental in bringing about the abolition of the trade in human beings in the last century. The United States did not shrink from a civil war in order to eradicate from their country this social pest, which wrought even more harm

to the master than to the slave. Cardinal Lavigerie preached the crusade against the Arab slave traders whom we in the end destroyed.

"It might, for the second time, have been hoped that the world had been delivered from slavery; but it was not so. For reasons of economy, in order to avoid asking for special votes of credit from Parliaments for unacknowledged expeditions, many governments had recourse to the *Corvée*. Thousands of men and women were torn from their homes and taken off as porters to great distances from their villages, and then when no longer of use were left without food or arms. Everywhere where these columns passed, the tracks were strewn with human bones; everywhere were ruin and famine, blood and tears. Elsewhere whole populations were employed on public works. These wretched people, deprived of proper food and lodging, were decimated by fever, cholera and typhus.

"Since 1881 these detestable practices have been forbidden in our Asiatic possessions by a decree of the President of the Republic. Twenty years later, as the result of resolutions passed by the Congress of Colonial Sociology, General Galliéni adopted a similar measure in Madagascar; the results exceeded expectation, and there was abundance of free labour for the railway works. To-day the French administration does not permit the *Corvée*.

"Do not think, however, that the victory is won. So fixed in human nature is the desire to impose its will upon the weak, that cases of abuse of force are hardly suppressed in one quarter before they re-appear in another form.

"Successive checks have not foiled those who benefit by the exploitation of natives, who, in order to strengthen their uncontrolled authority, claim to tamper with the dispensing of justice. In their view, the mental constitution of natives is different from ours, chastisement is only effective on condition that it follows immediately on the fault, and so they conclude that the European, in virtue of belonging to a higher race, ought to be given the right of punishing; they scarcely admit the intervention of the administrator. I have always combated these doctrines, and I consider it as the most meritorious act of my career that I was the first to effect the separation of the judicial and administrative powers in the Asiatic Colonies. In our colonies on the West Coast of Africa, M. Decrais has exerted himself to suppress abuses and to organize regular justice. I have been deeply grieved to read the decree which deprives the Arabs in Algeria of the guarantees which they have enjoyed since the conquest,

"I know no idea more false and more contrary to the security of Europeans than this. How can a people be expected to renounce their independence if, in the business of every day, the rule to which they are subject wounds their conscience, and compromises their fortunes, their

individual freedom, and the very life of the people? Forcible methods, the exercise of violence, undeserved punishments, will secure submission for the moment, but pacification will not be effected. As soon as a favourable opportunity occurs, the conquered people, if they are numerous enough, will take advantage of it to drive the abhorred conqueror into the sea. Surely the wisest and most profitable course is to treat subject peoples with firmness and humanity, to dispense equitable justice, to associate them in the administration, to bind them to the Government, not by a gratitude which they do not owe to us, but by their own interest. On these terms only will colonial policy become fruitful."

KANAKA TRAFFIC IN THE NEW HEBRIDES.

MUCH has been heard in the past of the evils connected with the system of recruiting labourers from the South Sea Islands for the Queensland sugar plantations, but an article in the *Revue Maritime*, a French official publication, by M. H. Laurent, an officer in the French Navy, calls attention to a traffic which is now being carried on in the New Hebrides by recruiters who go about the islands and, by means of a few promises and plenty of brandy, easily persuade the credulous Kanakas to go with them and work for the white men. The native is taken on board the schooner, and in a few days is sold to a settler in a neighbouring island, or they are taken in batches to Noumea in New Caledonia, where they fetch a higher price than in the New Hebrides. "The Kanaka," says M. Laurent, "is sold for five years;" he gets no wages, and the recruiter pockets 450 francs, out of which he recoups himself for expenses and risks, and makes a handsome profit. At the end of five years the slave can return home, but 70 per cent. of those recruited do not live to the end of their term, the labour proving fatal to them. During the latter part of their term the masters neglect them and treat them badly, when their labour is no longer of much use, and the Kanakas frequently desert; sometimes a terrible revenge is taken on the recruiters by the cannibal friends of the wronged labourers.

The writer protests that the traffic which goes on is nothing but the slave trade, which he describes not from travellers' tales or second-hand evidence, but from what he has himself seen. It is not stated to what nationality the recruiters or those who hire the Kanaka labour belong, but it is implied that the trade is tolerated by the Government, which is carried on by a Joint Commission of French and English naval officers on Pacific stations. Enquiry into these allegations is certainly called for, and it is satisfactory to learn that it has been ordered by the French Colonial Administration.

In another of the Pacific islands, New Britain, in the Bismarck Archipelago to the east of New Guinea (a German possession), a brutal massacre of missionaries is reported to have taken place in August last. One cause assigned for the outrage is that the missionaries were in the habit of freeing slaves brought by the coast natives from the interior to work in the native plantations, and

of settling them on land near the Mission. This caused irritation and resentment on the part of the people whose practices were interfered with.

A SLAVE TRADE ANNIVERSARY.

A paragraph in the *Daily Chronicle*, on October 18th, recalled a baleful association with that date:—

It was in October, 1562, that the British slave-trade was inaugurated by the sailing of John Hawkins to Sierra Leone, there to kidnap a cargo of negroes, whom he subsequently sold in Hispaniola; and on October 18th, two years later, he embarked upon a more ambitious venture of the same kind. Not only were the Earls of Pembroke and Leicester among the speculators interested, but the expedition had the most august sanction possible. Queen Elizabeth lent Hawkins the Royal ship "Jesus" for this cruise—a 700-tonner, from Lübeck, bought in her father's time; and there can be little doubt that her Majesty had a finger in the pie, though her share of the profits was never revealed.

Reviews.

LABOUR AND OTHER QUESTIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

By "INDICUS."*

WE have in this book the notes of a four months' tour taken by the author through the South African colonies early in 1903, relating mainly to the labour question and the position of the natives and of British Indians in the different colonies. Having lived in India for many years, as he tells us in the preface, the author was naturally interested in the welfare of the Indian people, whose treatment in South Africa came as a great surprise to him.

Indicus made a point of entering into conversation with various classes of people whom he met in travelling or in the hotels where he stayed—colonials, Dutch, British officers, mine managers, business men, Indians, and others—and he records the different views expressed by them on the condition and general prospects of the country and the colour question in particular, and the impressions they made upon him. He does not write without strong bias, for his sympathy with the coloured peoples and his dislike and distrust of a "Jingo" policy are acknowledged, and his notes, he tells us, were published with the idea of bringing the disabilities suffered by the educated Hindu, as well as the Kaffir in British South Africa, to light.

The notes have a distinct interest and value as embodying the first-hand impressions of an observer of the conditions on the spot, and even if we regard them as in some degree prejudiced and pessimistic, they are not pleasant reading.

The picture which *Indicus* presents of the state of the country—of the relations of British colonials to Dutch, and of both to Kaffirs and Indians—and

* London: T. Fisher Unwin.

of the prospects of settlement, is an exceedingly gloomy and discouraging one. The position of the coloured races in the lately annexed provinces he holds to be "intolerable," and the desire for forced labour or the nearest possible approach to slavery is, he believes, widespread, and "is really at the bottom of all the labour suggestions of the colonists."

The native difficulty is one which everywhere is constantly coming into discussion, and the author often refers to the expectation (somewhat vague in character) of a coming "native war" as general.

"The mine-owners are trying hard, and they will try harder, to make Government force the Kaffirs to work; not for a wage which they would be willing to accept, but for the sum which mine-owners and white people generally consider a sufficient wage for 'the particular needs of Kaffirs' as the canting phrase here runs. Direct slavery cannot be attempted, but indirect and unfair measures—sure to be resented—are aimed at. Hence the anticipated trouble and the talk of the coming native question."

The author is strongly of opinion that South Africa is a "black country" and cannot do without Indian and native labour. The Boers are as little inclined to treat the coloured race fairly as the British colonists, though *Indicus* is of opinion that Indians at least would have a better chance with the Dutch, because these do not enter into competition with them, like other whites, as artisans and shopkeepers.

The disabilities and restrictions imposed on British Indians are especially strict in Natal, which owes so much to their labour, but the feeling against them as settlers on the part of the whites in the Transvaal is only less strong than in the former colony, which the author describes as "seething with burning race and labour questions."

Experience, however, is not wanting to show that much can be done with the native by fair and equitable treatment, and by strictly keeping promises made. In regard to the Indian settlers, the author expresses a strong desire that the Viceroy and the Government of India should intervene to render their position in South Africa more tolerable.

In view of the facts stated, it is concluded to be of the greatest importance that in granting self-government to the new colonies, every effort should be made to secure proper treatment to all British subjects, whatever their colour, with which object the author suggests that an agreement should be made that no measure penalizing the coloured races should be introduced for at least seven years after the grant of self-government.

As regards the difficulty of labour for the mines, *Indicus* records more than once the belief that the question of wages is at the root of it. Writing before the Chinese Ordinance had been passed, he looks forward with apprehension to the introduction of indentured Chinese coolies, on which he comments as follows:—

"It is not sufficiently understood at home that the gold-bearing mines in the Transvaal yield only a very poor grade ore, and that this cannot possibly be

worked to a profit on the enormously inflated stock to which the industry has been watered by promoters and gamblers, unless something approaching slave or forced labour is made use of. That is the real difficulty of the 'labour question' so often lightly spoken of, and it is a very real difficulty indeed . . . I hope that the fear of heavy losses may not so blind the eyes of Great Britain as to cause it to permit the mining rulers to set up a system of forced labour grossly underpaid, for that alone is what the inveigling of Chinese or Indians into fenced compounds, on five years' indentures, on terms that will be wholly misunderstood by the victims before they reach South Africa, really amounts to. Such a system will be slavery hidden under a thin veil of hypocrisy, and will probably lead to bloodshed if it is permitted."

WORKING WITH THE HANDS.

BY BOOKER T. WASHINGTON.*

In this volume Mr. Washington continues in detail the history of his great work for coloured education in the United States which was begun in his interesting autobiography *Up from Slavery*. The fame of the Tuskegee College in Alabama is now widespread, and the value of the institution, not only for the negro race, but for the whole community, is well known. The general principle on which it was founded and on which it is carried on, viz., the moral value of industrial training for the coloured people of the South is also generally known, but, in describing in detail the work done at Tuskegee, Mr. Washington lays stress on the fact which has been proved by experience, that manual training must be supported and supplemented by moral, religious and mental education; the training of the head and hands must go together.

"Tuskegee Institute," he says, "stands for education as well as for training, for men and women as well as for bricks and mortar."

Mr. Washington has, in previous writings, told in how practical a way the institution at Tuskegee was founded to meet those needs of his race which with rare insight and courage he saw and determined to supply. The difficulties were immense, arising from the indifference of the Southern whites, and the prejudices and ignorance of the coloured people, whose one idea of "education" was book-learning, which, it was imagined, would in some way enable them to live without hand-work. Booker Washington undertook the heroic task of removing these prejudices, and by his system of combining industrial teaching with school study, whereby students have been enabled to pay for their education by their own labour, he has shown the dignity of work and its value for building up character.

Mr. Washington has before emphasized the value of the hand-training which was given in the old slavery days; those slaves who learned a trade turned out to be the best men of the community afterwards. In the Tuskegee Institute, therefore, the economic side of education has always been put first, its earning value, rather than a finished manual training as such.

* London: Grant Richards.

The greater part of this interesting book is taken up with an account of the way in which Mr. Washington has succeeded in carrying his theories into practice at Tuskegee, and a good idea of the nature and scope of the training is given by the illustrations, taken from photographs, of the various industries which are taught and carried on in the Institution.

This is not the place to dwell on these deeply interesting details; it is enough to say that his methods, most carefully thought out and ably carried into execution, show the genius of Mr. Washington, and explain how he has attained his position as an educationalist of the first order. Not only do we learn much in regard to the training of negroes in America, but the book is rich in suggestion as to the training and education of the young generally. Mr. Washington's experience is that training to a productive trade educates, and everywhere in his system theory and practice are welded together. One or two examples of this will suffice; nearly all the school buildings have been built by the students, who themselves made the bricks, and did the carpentry, plastering and painting necessary. The same applies to the electric lighting, the furniture, the growing of vegetables, and the preparation of food for the table; but this work is all for the benefit of the students, and the first object is not to make the school self-supporting. Agriculture is the most prominent industry taught to the male students; the girls, besides being taught sewing, dressmaking, laundry work, cooking, furniture making, &c., are thoroughly trained in domestic economy in "practice cottages," where they live by four at a time, and take charge of the whole housekeeping under supervision. Here they learn the nutritive values of foods, and manage the *cuisine* on a fixed weekly allowance, in order to fit them for practical after-life as wives and mothers. The girls are also trained in outdoor work, such as horticulture, market gardening, poultry-raising and dairying.

Mr. Washington has been rewarded for his labours by the great and increasing success of the institution. There are more than 1,000 students at Tuskegee, and the eagerness of the negro youth to share in its benefits is shown by the immense number of letters received from applicants for admission to the college. Every year thousands are refused for lack of room. Since its foundation about 6,000 men and women have received a full training in the Institute, but far more, probably, have benefited by a partial course.

The American negro, the author assures us, takes advantage of every opportunity to secure an education, working in sympathetic touch (it is well to note) with the Southern whites.

"Aside from its direct benefits to the negro race, industrial education, in providing a common ground for understanding and co-operation between the North and South, has meant more to the South, and to the cause of education, than has been realized."

The worth of this noble and patriotic service which Mr. Washington is rendering to America can hardly be over-estimated. It is in such steady and thorough work as his for the coloured people that the best hope of the solution of the difficult race problem in the country lies.